

Redstone Rocket

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Command shows shuttle keepsakes

Columbia mementos
recognize Redstone
for space support

By KIM GILLESPIE
For the Rocket

The relationship between the Army and NASA is linked through history, and continues today at Redstone Arsenal. Space Shuttle Columbia was one of the ties that bind the space program and its history to Redstone.

Claus Martel, an historian with the Aviation and Missile Command, said some pieces of Columbia memorabilia were presented to AMCOM in the past and have been preserved by the History Office.

The Columbia memorabilia includes a framed certificate of appreciation to Redstone commemorating Columbia's initial flight, STS-1, in April 1981. The framed certificate thanks Redstone for its support to Marshall Space Flight Center and the space program. A small American flag that accompanied Columbia on its maiden voyage is also displayed with the certificate.

"The certificate is signed by astronauts John Young and Robert Crippen," Martel said.

The second piece of framed memorabilia is the result of former astronaut Don Thomas' interest in the space program's history, and its beginnings with the Army's missile program at Redstone.

"I was contacted by Dr. Thomas when he was in training at Kennedy Space Center and asked about the Explorer 1 launch and what type of things related to Explorer 1 our office retained," Martel said. "After learning that we had a small model of Explorer 1, Dr. Thomas asked to take the model with him on his upcoming Columbia mission. He wanted to honor a pivotal event — the U.S. Army Ballistic Missile Agency's successful launch of the Free World's first satellite, which marked the beginning of the space program."

Thomas took the model on the July 8-23, 1994, STS-65 mission. The model, along with a certificate signed by the flight



PRICELESS PLAQUES— Two framed Columbia mementos were presented to Redstone years before the shuttle disaster Feb. 1

crew's seven astronauts and authenticating the space trip, was returned to Redstone. A framed photo montage of the STS-65 Columbia flight crew and other mementos were also presented to AMCOM as a keepsake.

"After the Feb. 1, 2003, loss of Columbia and its crew, Maj. Gen. (Larry) Dodgen suggested that we share some of these items with Team Redstone as another way of honoring the memory of Columbia and its crew, both past and present," Martel said. The two framed mementos are in the glass case in the first floor corridor of building 5300.

"The Columbia Space Shuttle items that we have are priceless to us," Martel said. "They are unique and represent the evolution of the original Redstone Rocket program — they embody the true spirit of Team Redstone."

Seven astronauts died when Columbia broke apart above north-central Texas on Feb. 1 as it maneuvered for a planned landing at the Kennedy Space Center, Fla.

Children send heartfelt messages to soldiers

Army Community Service
forwards valentine cards

By SANDY RIEBELING
Staff writer
sandy@htimes.com

The simplest of words can be the most powerful when written from the hearts of children.

"Dear My Protector,
"Hey, you do not know me but I am so glad that you are brave enough to go and fight. Thank you for fighting for our safety and peace. I hope to see you some day.
Me, Myself,
Brandy Murphee"

Brandy is a fourth-grader from West End Elementary in Altoona, who like hundreds of other elementary school children in the area, penned her thoughts in a homemade valentine and sent it to Redstone's

Army Community Service hoping it will reach the hands and heart of a soldier away from home.

"It's called Operation Heart-to-Heart," Ann Owens, financial readiness program manager at ACS, said. "I didn't know anything about the program. We just started getting packages with all these valentines from school children. It makes you want to cry, reading some of these valentines."

Operation Heart-to-Heart is one of several ongoing national campaigns to send heartfelt messages of support to soldiers. This particular effort was originally designed to send messages to the families of deployed soldiers.

Walter Jackson Elementary fifth-grader Jonathan wrote, "Thank the person that is in war for me. Don't give up in this person. Keep hope. Happy New Year."

But most of the pink, red and white

See Valentines on page 11

Photo by Sandy Riebeling
TO SOLDIERS, WITH LOVE— Army Community Service unexpectedly received hundreds of valentines made by local school children sending messages of love and gratitude to soldiers fighting the war on terror.



Letters to the editor

'The drums' summon soldiers

To the beat of a thousand drums,
Our soldiers march off to war.
Each one carries within his heart,
The dreams of those gone before.

They know that they may not return,
To the embrace of those left behind.
Still they march to the beat of the drums,
With sheer courage and faith so blind.

Our thoughts and prayers go with them,
America is sending her very best.
May God bless and keep them safe,
And enable them to meet the test.

While we await their safe return,
And until the last battle is won.
We shall honor our gallant soldiers,
Who bravely march to the beat of the drums.

Ephraim W. Mosier

Guardsman just trying to do job

This is in response to the "Vehicle inspection bugs driver" letter published in the Feb. 5 *Redstone Rocket*. I write this with mixed emotions and a definite fear of reprisal for sending this but, I want to get some facts straight. I am the soldier at the gate that night. I challenge you publish this rebuttal in its entirety in the next *Rocket*.

As far as the story that Spec. Bierer told, that is his one-sided version and is inaccurate and emotion filled at best. He mentioned that he "could not think straight due to the events of that night." Apparently the virus may have affected his memory as it did his manners that night. He certainly had no military bearing or professionalism the way that he spoke to the guards. He came through the gate at a period of 100 percent vehicle inspection and was politely asked to turn off the engine, step out of the vehicle and open all compartments to include the hood and trunk. When asked if he had any weapons, drugs or alcohol to declare he became agitated that he was about to be searched and did, in fact state, that he had "just got back from the hospital" and also "had a sick child at home." He also admitted to shaking his head in disgust but failed to mention the attitude that came with that gesture or the slamming of the door and overall contempt of the inspection process. He also lied to you about being threatened with a night in jail although he was encouraged to "settle down" as "the inspection wouldn't take very long." Although I have witnessed a driver being taken into custody for swearing and disrespect, I've only informed one belligerent person that I was prepared to call the Military Police if he continued to raise his voice and call me names. That person

was angry when we were checking for proof of insurance and he didn't want to drive 10 minutes back home to get it because he would be late for work. How would that same person speak to a State Trooper or Huntsville Police officer if asked for ID or proof of insurance?

Anyway, back to the issue. Spec. Bierer was checked because that was the requirement and not to be mean and inconsiderate to him or his family. The polite, not sarcastic, comment made to him at the end of the search was because the search was quick and his wife was only out of the car long enough to look under her seat. He spent more time complaining about the search than the actual search should have taken. I do understand his concern and some might argue that we could have just "waived him through." But here is the catch, his story was as believable and convincing as many others. We get all kinds of reasons why people don't want to be searched, like they are "late for work" or they "get checked every time." The problem is that we find drugs, weapons and open containers of alcohol more often than you would think. The number of people without the state required proof of insurance is staggering. Many come through with expired insurance and even revoked driver's licenses. Many of our discoveries on the gates have led to arrests and convictions. So are these "inconvenient" security checks pointless?

I can understand, to a point, why Spec. Bierer was so disrespectful that night but some people are downright hateful. I had a CWO 4 come through at 3:30 in the morning with no proof of insurance. I was polite in asking for it

See Job on page 3

Drivers can be dangerous

On the morning of Dec. 6, I had a near encounter with three deer; one in front of my truck and two behind. I had just turned off Patton Road onto Mills. I had also just parted company with a male driver of a light green Honda automobile who had apparently left for work too late. He had driven up Patton Road dangerously close to the rear of my full size pickup. Had the deer encounter happened on Patton, I'd be able to tell you his name and insurance carrier, etc.

This morning, for the second day this week, I had an encounter with a female driver of a gray import automobile. She too is apparently experiencing difficulty departing for work in a timely manner.

The first encounter involved her passing me on Redstone Road. That's understandable; I was only going 47 mph in the 45 mph zone. She proceeded north on Patton, passing three more vehicles, one at a time. These three passes were all with oncoming traffic. At least two were in no-passing zones; the last being in the Patton-Mills Road intersection. Today, Feb. 6, with the snow-rain mix, she couldn't pass so she drove within a very few feet of my bumper and gave me the finger as she passed on the right in the Patton-Mills intersection. What a class act.

I called the Military Police and they are going to keep an eye out for her....

Name withheld by request

An open lane random survey

What do you think about the Columbia shuttle disaster?

By KELLEY LANE

Staff writer

kelleyqa@bellsouth.net



Master Chief
James Nelson

"It's a tragedy and I hope that NASA is able to figure out what exactly happened, make the cor-

rections and maintain our presence in space."

Rev. George
McClellan

"It's tragic and I'm very sorry for the families, but my concern is also with the soldiers that are going to Iraq. That's my primary concern now. That's where my prayers are going to be."



Warrant Officer
John Dorch

"It's tragic, but it will make the nation stronger. I believe that it will revitalize the sagging space program. It is a bad thing, but maybe some good will come out of it."



Eleanor White,
wife of retired
soldier/contractor

"It really hits close to home because my father was on the space program that helped build the original shuttle that blew up. He's having a hard time with this. If you stop and think about it, it's a tragic loss for everyone really — the knowledge that was lost, not to mention the lives of those great men and women. It's hard to describe."



Redstone Rocket

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Military kids can win Space Camp entry

The Army Community Service Volunteer Program announces the Space Camp, Space Academy, and Aviation Challenge Scholarship Program for 2003, open to military family members.

Applicants must be children of active duty or retired military members.

Children must complete grades 4-6 for Space Camp, grades 7 and 8 for Space Academy, and grades 7-9 to attend Aviation Challenge. They must reside within a

50-mile radius of Redstone Arsenal.

Applications are available Feb. 24 through March 14 at the Post Exchange, local schools and ACS, building 3338 on Redeye Road. Completed applications, a copy of the child's military ID card and an essay titled, "Why I wish to attend Space Camp/Space Academy/Aviation Challenge," must be returned to ACS by noon March 14.

For more information, call ACS at 876-5397.



Photo by Phyllis Montgomery
MAKING PLANS— Members of the Space Camp scholarship committee meet Jan 15 at Army Community Service. Susan Carr, co-chairperson, is standing at left.

Civil support teams help in Columbia debris search

Space shuttle items collected in Texas

By JIM GARAMONE
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The National Guard Civil Support teams called to duty to handle the aftermath of the Columbia tragedy are uniquely suited to the purpose.

The 21-member teams are trained to handle the aftermath of terrorist attacks. The equipment and training team members receive, however, also enable them to help in this tragedy.

The space shuttle Columbia broke apart Feb. 1 while at 200,000 feet over

eastern Texas. NASA officials immediately started warning people not to touch debris because of environmental dangers. Among other chemicals aboard Columbia, they said, the fuels it used to maneuver in space are toxic. In addition, they reported, pyrotechnic devices, such as explosive bolts, could explode and kill or maim anyone handling them.

The Texas National Guard's 6th Civil Support Team immediately began helping to isolate and examine debris. Teams from Arkansas and Oklahoma soon joined in as the scope of the search area grew. Officials said Columbia's debris field covered an area of 23,000 square miles in Texas and Louisiana.

The civil support teams travel with

biological and chemical monitoring equipment, portable sensors, laboratories and testing apparatus. They have protective gear that allows them to approach a hazard safely and operate around it. The teams are trained to operate with local first responders — the police and firefighters usually first to arrive on a scene.

Army Col. Pat Scully, a spokesman for the Oklahoma Guard, said the 63rd Civil Support Team, based in Oklahoma City, is operating out of Palestine, Texas. The team "is going out and making sure the debris is not contaminated and then allowing officials to collect the debris."

The team, he said, advises first responders on what chemicals are present, the

dangers they pose, and the incident commander's options.

The team has four to six hours to reach a site. All equipment is designed for easy airlifting if needed. In the case of the Columbia disaster, the Oklahomans reached Palestine in five hours.

All team members serve full time. This was the Oklahomans' first real-world deployment. Scully said officials were pleased with the unit's response speed and with the job it did while on scene.

Scully said the search for debris is very organized. He said the Texans have set up a grid and are methodically combing it. All search operations are under the control of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Vehicle inspection serves purpose

Job continued from page 2

but when he discovered that he didn't have it he stated that "he would call the general at home before he would be refused access to the post." The DoD guard let him through but asked that if he did call the general to make sure that he stated that he did not have his proof of insurance. We get grief from people like that constantly but, we just try to do what we are instructed to do in a professional manner. There is a tradeoff between convenience and security. There is no reason to take out driver frustration on the gate guards.

While I'm on the soap box, some drivers have been so inconsiderate to almost hit the soldiers with their vehicle while fumbling for their badge handing it out the window with one hand and talking on a cell phone with the other. Many feel that their phone call is more important than the security check, merging with traffic and negotiating the barriers. It is just a matter of time before someone gets hurt because of it. Is it too much to ask for their full attention while they are entering or exiting the installation?

We are here to provide additional support for the Provost Marshal Office as they have a tremendous task in coordinating DoD Guards, DoD Police, Military Police and the National Guard ele-

ments. All of these individuals have a job in securing this installation. I honestly believe that we try to be courteous and professional to all personnel coming into the gates. It would be nice if your readers could understand that and stop complaining about a short vehicle inspection that is in the best interest of everyone on this installation. The searches are also quicker if there is less to search. If we have to wade through Big Mac and Whopper wrappers to look under the seat, it adds to the total time. We are living in a dangerous world and if a few extra minutes of your time could potentially save your life or protect the installation, it should be worth it.

On a more uplifting note, I'd like to thank the few people that come through the gates with an encouraging word. We are National Guard soldiers that were

mobilized in support of Homeland Defense and would rather be with our families and at our civilian jobs than to take crap from as many as give it so freely. We are soldiers but are also individuals with feelings. It must be said that some people actually take the time to say "we appreciate you being here" or "thanks for looking out for us" as they come in the gate. During the holidays, many drivers remembered the thankless job of the gate guard with more cookies, cakes, cards and candy than we should have accepted. We are paying for it now on the PT field. To those special people and the polite drivers with the encouraging words, I salute you and want you to know that your kind gestures are really appreciated.

Sgt. John D. Pennington

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HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS (PG-13) DIG (12:00 1:35 2:40 4:10 5:10) 7:05 7:40 9:35 10:10	HOW TO LOSE A GUY IN 10 DAYS (PG-13) DIG (1:05 4:05) 7:05 9:40
SHANGHAI KNIGHTS (PG-13) DIG (1:30 4:10) 7:15 9:40	BIKER BOYZ (PG-13) DIG (1:05 4:05) 7:05 9:40
BIKER BOYZ (PG-13) *DIG (1:30 4:05) 7:05 9:35	RABBIT-PROOF FENCE (PG) 7:40 9:50
FINAL DESTINATION 2 (R) ID REQUIRED (12:10 3:00 5:10) 7:35 10:00	THE RECRUIT (PG-13) DIG (1:20 4:20) 7:20 10:00
THE RECRUIT (PG-13) DIG (12:05 2:45 5:00) 7:20 9:40	CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND (R) ID REQUIRED DIG (1:00 4:00) 7:00 9:45
ABOUT SCHMIDT (R) ID REQUIRED DIG (1:05 4:05) 7:10 9:45	DARKNESS FALLS (PG-13) (1:30 4:30) 7:30 10:00
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DARKNESS FALLS (PG-13) DIG (12:10 2:45 5:00) 7:40 10:05	THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS (PG-13) DIG (1:00 4:40) 8:15
KANGAROO JACK (PG) DIG (1:00 3:00 5:00) 7:40 10:00	DRUMLINE (PG-13) (1:15 4:15) 7:15 9:50
NATIONAL SECURITY (PG-13) DIG (12:15 2:45 5:05) 7:30 9:50	MAID IN MANHATTAN (PG-13) (1:10 4:10) 7:10 9:45
ANTWONE FISHER (PG-13) DIG (1:40 4:20) 7:00 9:30	HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS (PG) (1:10 4:25)
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CHICAGO (PG-13) DIG (1:35 4:15) 7:15 9:35	
CATCH ME IF YOU CAN (PG-13) DIG (1:00 4:00) 7:00 9:50	
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Aviation product reaps rewards for manager

Lieutenant colonel credits team effort for Armywide honor

By **SANDY RIEBELING**
Staff writer
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In about a month, three specially equipped UH-60 Black Hawks will be sent to Kuwait to provide the Army's first Airborne Command and Control System. Lt. Col. Don Hazelwood, product manager for the A2C2S, will be there, too.

"We've had our miracles to get it done," Hazelwood said. "We've had our challenges and setbacks but we've had great luck with the people that have worked on this system. To get this far this fast is exciting."

And rewarding, perhaps?

Because Hazelwood was able to get this system off the ground in such a short time, he was named Product Manager of the Year for 2002. He accepted the award from Claude Bolton, Army acquisition executive, and Lt. Gen. John Caldwell, military deputy to the assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology, Sept. 22 at the Army Acquisition Ball in Washington, D.C.

"I was surprised," Hazelwood said of the honor. "I knew I was nominated but there were so many good people who'd done great things... I wasn't even scheduled to attend the Acquisition Ball. I got a call on Thursday to be on a plane Friday for the ball on Saturday. If I'd known about the award, my wife would have gone. And I would have brought people from my office. This is their award as much as mine."

Tim McClellan, deputy product manager for A2C2S, called the award "vindication" for the team's long hours and hard work on the program.

"It's nice to be recognized," he said.

But it also belongs to Hazelwood's children, Valerie, 16, and Alex, 13, who



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

ALL ABOUT COMMUNICATION— Lt. Col. Don Hazelwood, product manager, Army Airborne Command and Control System, talks with his deputy Tim McClellan, center, and Rex Teague, technical chief for A2C2S. Hazelwood was named product manager of the year for 2002.

have gone without their father for days and weeks at a time because of the grueling schedule.

"They thought the award was great," he said. "I think it brought meaning to them for the first time about what's going on here."

Carried on a Black Hawk, the Army Airborne Command and Control System is a mobile tactical command post that provides a digital picture of the battlefield in almost real time. Commanders are supplied critical information, such as weather conditions, troop placements of both

friend and foe, terrain maps, flight routes, and locations of assets while in the air or on the ground in a remote site.

"The battlefield moves," Hazelwood said. "Tactical operation centers have to be torn down, moved and re-established. There's a lot going on all the time. A2C2S allows the commander to stay in touch with everything, whether he's flying 300 kilometers an hour or stationary. Communication is key in these situations. Commanders need to know what they are up against, where the enemy troops are and how many."

According to Hazelwood, the Army didn't use radios until World War II. Even with that form of communication, it took about three days for command information turn-around and by then, much of the information was no longer valid.

During Desert Storm, command information turn-around had been reduced to 12-24 hours which was better but still troublesome.

"We can't afford to have meeting engagements," Hazelwood said. "That means we don't want our troops out there to run into the enemy unexpected, which is what happened in the Battle of 73 Easting. The 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment ran into the Republican guards and didn't know they had a division right behind them."

According to Hazelwood, the regiment

did a hasty withdrawal and waited until nightfall to re-engage the enemy using thermal imaging.

"It worked because we owned the night," he said "We could see and they couldn't. We don't own the night any more. We can't afford to have these unexpected meetings. We need to get battle space information to the commander and out again in a matter of seconds or minutes. That's what A2C2S does. It gets information to the tip of the spear quickly."

The A2C2S is divided into component kits A and B. A-Kit includes modifications to the cargo floor, additional floor structure, electrical and antenna cables, ground power connections, nine antennas and power interfaces. B-Kit components include two common displays, five identical workstations with laptops, communications suite, and two Multi-Processor Units to run the software.

Not only did Hazelwood's office of about 50 have to design the system but then they had to assure air worthiness — that none of the systems electronics or signals would impede flying the aircraft safely.

Hazelwood's mission began in January 2000 as the transition lead to bring the existing program out of the Aviation Program Executive Office and transition it to PEO Command, Control and Communications Tactical. In July he received his charter as product manager for the A2C2S. Within eight months it was on contract for \$11.3 million and less than a year later they were bending metal. The process typically takes more than two years.

"After 9/11 we were told to accelerate the program. Without streamlining initiatives and the support from all the organizations this never would have happened," Hazelwood said. "AMCOM, the Aviation Engineering Directorate, Redstone Technical Test Center, Aviation Technical Test Center, Integrated Materiel Management Center, Acquisition Center — all these guys, working so hard. The subcontractor and the prime. This was worked 24/7."

In March the three initial Black Hawks will be taken to Kuwait for operational testing. Two of them fully fitted, the third will have only the A-Kit but the B-Kit will be shipped a month later and can be installed in about two hours using only four tools.

The Army's objective is 121 Black Hawks equipped with A2C2S by 2013 for active and reserve forces. More are expected to be produced to cover civilian, NATO and foreign military sales requests.

Hazelwood is scheduled to go to the Army War College in July but hopes to return to Redstone and work in PEO Aviation.

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Command awards contract for aviation support

ACQUISITION CENTER RELEASE

The Aviation and Missile Command and Parker Hannifin, Customer Support Inc, Irvine, Calif., have entered into a long term agreement to provide aviation support to the war fighter.

The contract provides support across multiple systems to include Blackhawk, Apache, Chinook and Kiowa Warrior. An Integrated Product Team was developed to implement a contract strategy to provide for a contractual vehicle for the sole source spares and maintenance and overhaul required over the next five years.

Phase one of the contract was signed Jan. 16 to cover 45 items at a potential value of \$152 million over the next five years and phase two will provide coverage for an additional 70 items increasing

potential value to more than \$400 million.

The contract provides the framework for Parker and AMCOM to ensure rapid support to the Army on these items. It incorporates flexibility in quantities, fixed prices and an incentive to reduce production lead time.

An Alpha concept, which is the ultimate teaming arrangement, was utilized for evaluation and negotiation of the acquisition effort. Members of the IPT included all functional areas to include logistics, contracting, pricing and estimating, legal, engineering, business and program operations, supplier management and support from the Defense Contract Audit Agency. The overall success of this effort is due to the commitment from each of these areas to providing the highest level of support to the Army.



Courtesy photo

IN AGREEMENT— Contracting officer Cathy Dickens, seated at right, joins Parker Hannifin's Richard Gunther in signing a five-year contract to provide aviation support to multiple systems. Standing from left are Emily Springer, Willis Epps, Glynis Thomison, Bob Jones, Marsha Bailey, Jim Byrd, Patricia Joy, Randy Garrison and Paul Carlton.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Gee... thanks

Tina McBride takes it in stride when her co-workers decorated her desk with black balloons for her 40th birthday Feb. 4. They also had signs leading to their office in building 5300. "They greeted me at the door this morning with it. Black balloons and everything," said McBride, a security assistant in the Garrison Installation Personnel Security Office. "But it's just a number."

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Donations of gently used paperback books are needed to restock the “Book Swap” display in the fiction room of the Post Library.

"So many people have stores of paperback books at home that they don't know what to do with," Gail Alden, post librarian, said. "We wanted to put the word out that we can use them here. But you don't have to bring in a book to take one, even though it's called a swap. We like to call it the 'Take and Enjoy' rack because peo-

ple don't have to check them out or return them. It's great for soldiers and families traveling."

Fiction and nonfiction popular interest paperbacks in good condition are appreciated and can be dropped off during regular library hours.

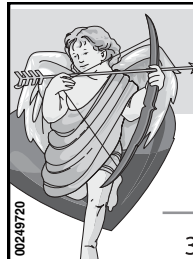
The library, building 3323 on Redeye Road, is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday; 11-6 Wednesday, Thursday, Friday; 11-4 Saturday; and closed Sunday and Monday.

For more information, call 876-4741.



Photo by Sandy Riebeling

TAKING INVENTORY— Post librarian Gail Alden, right, and former post librarian Norma Harkness, now a library volunteer, peruse the donated collection currently at the library.



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Quality of life survey issued for upcoming conference

Members of the Redstone community are invited to share their concerns about quality of life.

Army Community Service has provided a quality of life survey for the Redstone Arsenal Army Family Action Plan Conference, Feb. 25-26.

"This is your opportunity to make suggestions about programs, services, or benefits affecting you and your family," a prepared release said. "Sug-

tions will be discussed at the Redstone Arsenal Army Family Action Plan Conference."

Consider what could be improved in the following areas: medical and dental services, Post Exchange, commissary, military or civilian pay, allowances, entitlements, relocation, housing, traffic, travel, transportation, education, child care, and Morale Welfare and Recreation activities.

Your rank/grade/status:

How long have you been at Redstone Arsenal?

Do you live on or off post?

(Please type or write legibly)

How would you improve the Army's programs, services, or benefits?

(Be specific and recommend solutions. Give brief examples. Issues can be anything affecting the quality of life at Redstone or impacts the total Army family. Issues must have attainable solutions. Personal complaints will not be addressed. Comments may be continued on a separate sheet. One issue per page.)

Please include the following in the event ACS needs clarification:

Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Send your completed survey to Commander, AMCOM, Directorate of Personnel and Family Activities, Army Community Service, AMSAM-RA-CF-AC-QL, building 3338, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898-5000 or fax to 955-9171. Surveys for the conference will be accepted until Thursday.

If you would like to participate as a conference delegate, call Virginia Dempsey at 876-5397 fax 955-9171, or virginia.dempsey@redstone.army.mil.



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Climb food pyramid toward healthy heart

*Exercise, proper diet
keys to living longer*

By TAMIRIZ CENTENO
Community health nurse

Heart health, you hear the phrase a lot, but what does it mean? Living heart healthy means maintaining cholesterol, blood pressure and weight levels appropriate for your age and size. Wise food choices and consistent exercise help to achieve and maintain heart health.

The food pyramid gives the best guidance as to the foods you should eat most often. Depend on fruits, vegetables and grains to fill the majority of your plate. Your goal should be five or more servings of fresh fruits and vegetables per day. Avoid fried foods and processed foods. Choose fish, skinless poultry and lean cuts of meat for your protein sources. Non-fat dairy products should be consumed two to three times a day. Replace "bad" fats (saturated and trans fats) with healthy fats (monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats and fish oil).

Maintain a healthy weight. Daily exercise and a healthy diet are the keys in achieving and maintaining this goal. Exercise is the central ingredient of good health. It tones the muscles, strengthens the bones, and makes the heart and lungs work better. It increases your physical reserve and your vitality. Exercise eases depression, assists the function of the bowels, leads to sound sleep, and aids in every activity of daily life. Exercise helps prevent heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke and many other diseases.

Your heart is a muscle. And muscles need exercise to work their best. You don't have to start running marathons to increase your heart's strength. There are some very simple things you can add to your daily life to help keep your heart pumping strong. And you'll feel better about yourself just knowing you're making the effort.

- Use the stairs instead of the elevator.
- Park a little farther from your destinations and walk the extra distance.
- Take your dog for an extra walk every day. Don't have a dog? Consider getting one. Studies show that pet owners live longer.
- Remember to always consult your physician before starting any exercise regime.

Don't smoke or use other tobacco products. This is a counterproductive, self-defeating behavior. Smoking will devastate your physical health and add to your stress. Cigarette smoking kills more than 361,000 people in the United States each year (American Lung Association, 2002). Think of it as two fully loaded 747s crashing each day. Lung cancer and emphysema (chronic lung disease) are the best known and among the most miserable outcomes. However, smoking causes atherosclerosis to develop faster, and that problem affects smokers whether or not the other diseases mentioned occur. Atherosclerosis results in heart attacks and strokes, angina pectoris (heart pains), intermittent claudication (leg pains), and many other problems. Pipe and cigar smoking don't have the pulmonary (lung) consequences that cigarette smoking does, but

can lead to cancer of the lips, tongue and esophagus. Nicotine in any form has bad effects on the small blood vessels and thus increases your chance of heart attack.

Never have more than two to three alcoholic drinks per day. Alcohol in small quantities is actually good for your health, but at three or more drinks per day (a drink is defined as one 12 ounce beer, one six-ounce glass of wine, or one to one and one-half ounces of hard liquor) the risks outweigh the benefits. If you cannot limit yourself to two or fewer drinks per day, then don't drink at all. A good rule of thumb is to limit your alcohol to not more than 10 to 14 drinks per week, but it's not a good idea to save them up and have all 14 drinks on a Saturday night binge.

Get regular checkups. If you are over 40 or have heart trouble, you should have a checkup at least once a year. The exam should include cholesterol and glucose levels and a blood pressure check for most adults. Take the medications your doctor has prescribed for you. Today we have a wonderful selection of safe, well-tested drugs to control blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes and most other chronic diseases. These drugs, when used properly, can make a real difference in keeping you alive and healthy for

decades to come.

Simplify your life. Prioritize tasks to include only those necessary or enjoyable. Eliminate the unnecessary ones. Commit yourself to things in your life that are most important to you. Cultivate and nurture your relationships with family and friends. Don't isolate yourself; get involved with work, your community or your church. It is also important to find hobbies you enjoy and look forward to give you an outlet from the stresses at work.

Be positive and enthusiastic. Most people are about as happy as they choose to be. Think positively, don't carry grudges or associate with people who do. A good attitude is contagious. If you assume a negative attitude, you'll notice most people seem to ignore you or treat you badly.

On the other hand, if you are positive, happy, friendly and considerate, the people around you will turn out to be surprisingly considerate and generous in return. Moreover, you will find you have a more enjoyable and healthier life.

For more information on heart health and other health topics, call the Public Health and Education Center at Fox Army Health Center at 955-8888, ext. 1026 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Bush speaks of prayers for all people who suffer

By KATHLEEN RHEM
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — This is "a testing time" for the United States, and at times like this, prayer is more appropriate than ever, President Bush said at the National Prayer Breakfast here Feb. 6.

"At this hour we have troops that are assembling in the Middle East, there's oppressive regimes that seek terrible weapons, (and) we face an ongoing threat of terror," Bush said. "One thing is for certain: We didn't ask for these challenges, but we will meet them. I say that with certainty because this nation has strong foundations that won't be shaken."

The president said that when he greets the public, the comment he hears most from people is that they are praying for him. "I turn to them without hesitation and say, 'That is the greatest gift you can

give anybody ... to pray on their behalf,'" Bush said.

He spoke of mourning the loss of "seven brave souls" aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia Feb. 1 and spoke of how impressed he is with the resolve of the astronauts' families. "Our country prays for their strength," the president said. "And we must continue to pray for those who suffer and those who grieve."

Bush told the assemblage that Americans can be confident in their country's cause in the world. "We don't own the ideals of freedom and human dignity, and sometimes we haven't always lived up to them," he said. "But we do stand for those ideals, and we will defend them."

Before leaving the podium, the president prayed for "the men and women who serve around the world to defend our freedom," for their families, and for "wisdom to know and do what is right."



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Cleckley: Take time to celebrate who we are

*Guard general officer
applauds diversity*

By MSgt. BOB HASKELL
Special to the American Forces Press Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — February is African-American History Month, but the tributes and testimonies actually begin about two weeks earlier, around Jan. 15, the birthday of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

It is impossible for African Americans like Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Julia Cleckley to consider the month without acknowledging King's birthday, because of his role in helping attain the civil rights that so many people celebrate every February.

The mid-January King national holiday weekend honors the American civil rights icon. It's also a time when many Americans begin to pay annual tributes to the members of the nation's diverse culture. For instance, special months honoring women (March) and Asian Americans (May) soon follow.

Cleckley enlisted in the Women's Army Corps before the onus of gender segregation moved the American conscience to disband it. She earned her commission in the New York Army Guard's



Photo by MSgt. Bob Haskell

EXPERIENCES CHANGE— Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Julia Cleckley earned her commission in the New York Army Guard's 42nd Infantry Division in 1976.

42nd Infantry Division in 1976, the year America celebrated its 200th anniversary and the ideal expressed in the Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal."

Like many African-American women,

Cleckley said, she strives to help others attain the dream of equality that King advocated for all.

She was promoted to one-star general in September 2002 after becoming the first black woman who'd achieved many other milestones in the Army Guard. Not the least of her achievements was her promotion to colonel in the ranks of guardsmen who hold a special authority to serve on full-time active duty.

She's now the Army Guard director's special assistant for human resource readiness, and she chairs the Army Guard's Equal Employment Opportunity Committee. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People presented Cleckley with its Roy Wilkins Renowned Service Award in 1998.

Cleckley recently addressed the National Guard's annual prayer breakfast honoring King in Washington, D.C. She said she's set to travel to at least five states during African-American History Month and would speak about how far African-Americans have come and how far they have yet to go. She shared some of her observations during a post-breakfast interview:

Q. Why is it important to honor ethnic groups with events such as African-American History Month when we're all said to be Americans?

Cleckley. "The majority race is not Hispanic or African-American. That is coupled with the fact that most of the leaders in American society and in the administration and in all facets of the corporate world belong to the majority race. But we're all intertwined.

"It's important that the majority race hears and sees what minorities have done to make this country great. A lot of people in the majority race don't know these things. They need to know about the struggles of Martin Luther King Jr. and his part in getting the Civil Rights Act passed.

"It is important for Hispanics and Asian Americans and African Americans to have a day or a month to celebrate who we are, and to show that this is what our cultures have to offer, and to show what is important to us. It is important to let

everyone else see that."

Q. How far have we progressed toward fulfilling the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.?

Cleckley. "We've come a long way, but we still have a way to go. Since I grew up in his era, I have, of course, seen progress. Segregation is just not overt now. But we still have some of it in covert ways. I'd say we've progressed to well over 70 percent."

Q. Will it take a lot more time to achieve the final 20 percent to 30 percent than it did the first 70 percent to 80 percent?

Cleckley. "I don't think it's going to take that long. The Civil Rights Act was passed in 1964, and look how far we've come. I think we'll get there much quicker than it took us to get to where we are today."

Q. Do you have an African-American hero other than Martin Luther King Jr.?

Cleckley. "One of my favorite heroes is the late Barbara Jordan. She was a great orator. She was the first African-American woman who really moved me in terms of her educational philosophy and her professional accomplishments." (Jordan, who died in 1996, was a congresswoman, orator, educator and the first African-American woman to win a seat in the Texas state senate.)

Q. Is the military still setting the pace for equality?

Cleckley. "Yes. I have felt that way ever since I was an enlisted person. I think the military is far more advanced in a lot of things than some of the civilian sectors. They include equal opportunity, diversity, and the fact that females can progress as long as we do the job and as long as we punch all of the tickets that we're supposed to punch. That's what I've done throughout my career."

Editor's note: MSgt. Bob Haskell is senior correspondent in the National Guard Bureau Public Affairs Office, Arlington, Va.



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Powell's U.N. speech gets mixed reaction

U.S. secretary of state makes case against Iraq

By KATHLEEN RHEM
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Representatives of three countries made statements of strong support for the U.S. position on Iraq following Secretary of State Colin Powell's presentation to the U.N. Security Council Feb. 5. A few appeared strongly against war, and others appear to be fence-sitting. Great Britain, Spain and Bulgaria showed strong support immediately after Powell spoke. Representatives of Security Council member nations were given the opportunity to make short statements during the meeting.

British Foreign Minister Jack Straw called Powell's presentation "a most powerful and authoritative case." Britain has been America's staunchest ally regarding Iraq.

"The international community owes (Powell) its thanks for laying bare the deceit practiced by the regime of Saddam Hussein and, worse, the very great danger which that regime represents," Straw said.

The representatives of Spain and Bulgaria voiced similar sentiments.

Spanish Foreign Minister Ana Palacio echoed statements made by American leaders on many occasions, that inspections are not an end unto themselves, but rather a means to judge Iraqi cooperation. "The inspections can only bear fruit if Iraq cooperates actively, and to date, it has not done so," she said.

Palacio told the council its credibility before the international community is at stake.

The representative from Bulgaria said his country will "face its high responsibilities" to disarm Saddam Hussein on behalf of the Iraqi people. "The Iraqi people deserve a better destiny and a peaceful future," Minister for Foreign Affairs Solomon Pasi said. "And Bulgaria is ready to contribute towards achieving this goal."

'Saddam is defying every one of us, every nation here represented. He questions our resolve and is gambling that we will lose our nerve rather than enforce our will.'

—Jack Straw
British foreign minister

France, Germany and Mexico urged the council members to depend on the work of the inspectors. France, in particular, seemed determined to avoid war regardless of what the inspectors next report when they address the Security Council Feb. 14 and regardless of how long such inspections could go on without reaching a conclusion.

"Let us double, let us triple the number of inspectors. Let us open up more regional offices. Let us go further than this," French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin said. "Could we not, for example, ... set up a specialized body to keep under

surveillance the sites and areas that have already been inspected? Let us very significantly reinforce the capacity for monitoring (and) collecting information in Iraq."

Iraq's U.N. representative, Mohammed al-Douri, not unexpectedly, dismissed Powell's presentation as "utterly unrelated to the truth." He suggested Powell's tapes of conversations were fabrications and that Iraq's 12,000-page declaration of its weapons and weapons programs is "accurate, comprehensive and updated."

In a Jan. 27 report to the Security Council, chief U.N. inspector Hans Blix called the Iraqi declaration "rich in volume, but poor in information, and practically devoid of new evidence."

China and Russia are examples of countries that expressed noticeably mixed messages. The Chinese representative welcomed "the U.S. move to provide the United Nations with this information and evidence on weapons of mass destruction in Iraq." But he also said the Security Council should decide the next step, an indication China doesn't want the United States going it alone in any military move.

"As long as there is still the slightest hope for political settlement, we should exert our utmost effort to achieve that," Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Tang Jiaxuan said.

Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Igor Ivanov also urged countries to work through the United Nations. "The inspectors alone can recommend to the Security Council how much time they need to carry out the tasks entrusted to them," he said. But at the same time, he said Iraq must answer legitimate questions Powell raised.

U.S. leaders have repeatedly said the United States will not wait for the Security Council to reach a unanimous resolution to use force if President Bush feels there is no other choice. The United Kingdom especially has backed up this position.

"Saddam is defying every one of us, every nation here represented," Straw said at the Security Council meeting. "He questions our resolve and is gambling that we will lose our nerve rather than enforce our will."

In a statement to reporters, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan withheld judgment on Powell's presentation. He said he'd let the inspectors follow through on the information and report back.

At the same time, however, Annan also urged Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi government to more fully cooperate when the lead inspectors return to Baghdad Feb. 8, "for the sake of their own people, for the region, and for the sake of world order."

Redstone units gain 35 soldiers

Thirty-five soldiers, including 17 officers, arrived for duty in January.

The Garrison provided the following list:

- SSgt. Christian Davis, SSgt. Rodriguez Santiago, SSgt. Danice Keathley, SFC Timothy Ferguson, SSgt. Kevin Wicker, SSgt. Steven McCain, SSgt. Cynthia Spratt, Delta Company;

- Spec. Broderick Moore, Spec. Michael Green, SSgt. Paul Bednar, Capt. Erika McPherson, 1st Lt. Jonathan Thomas, 2nd Lt. Joe Starnes, AMCOM; Spec. Gregory Gober, Pvt. John Browning, Pvt. Alex Ortiz, Spec. Albert Newsome, Garrison; SFC Anita Delaney, Maj. Stephen Rash, Capt. Jason Leigh,

Missile and Space Intelligence Center;

- SSgt. Stewart Blue, Headquarters & Alpha; PFC Jennifer Liddle, MED-DAC; SSgt. Sonya Gadson; Lt. Col. Tom Warren, Lt. Col. Paul Roege, Lt. Col. Patrick L. Smith, Lt. Col. Benjamin Schrader, Engineering Support Center; CWO 2 Curtis Blanchard, 95th Maintenance Company; Lt. Col. Robert Lunn, Maj. Allen Stephan, Program Executive Office for Aviation; Maj. Larry Adams; Capt. Patrick Schachle, HHC 59th; Maj. Edward Langwinski, Program Executive Office for Tactical Missiles; Maj. Paul V. Williams, Logistics Support Activity; and 1st Lt. Blasé Kusterle, Bravo Company.

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Software directorate attracts young engineers

Incentives program proves enticing

By **KELLEY LANE**
Staff writer
kelleyqa@bellsouth.net

The engineering field is a highly competitive area. Employers across the country compete for a limited number of graduates every year. How do you make sure your organization gets their share of the cream of the crop? You take a lesson from the Software Engineering Directorate and make them an offer they can't refuse.

As part of an incentive program to lure graduates to Redstone, SED put together a tempting package. It started with a competitive salary and four performance based pay increases spread out in six-month increments. Then they threw in a cash bonus of 25 percent of the starting pay. To further sweeten the deal, SED added a teleconference based graduate school program so that the fresh faced college graduates could obtain a master's degree in two years with no expense of their own. A promotion after receiving that degree awaits. Coupled with the pres-



Photo by Kelley Lane

FLIGHT SIMULATOR— Hiring incentives have Holly Garrison flying high.

tige of Redstone's reputation in the engineering world, the offer was just too good to turn down for students from six universities with a 3.0 grade point average or higher. The lab demonstration program offers practical experience, a full-time job

and a career building degree from the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

"It's a good place to start from," Bill Craig, SED director, said. "The salaries could've been higher, but look at what else we're offering."

The extra offerings played a big part in the decisions of those taking the co-op internships. "I like the way everything works here," Holly Garrison, a computer engineering intern, said. "They gave us the opportunity to get an education while working full time. I like that it wasn't 'after hours,' it's just part of your work. When it's time for school we just leave our desk and go to the teleconferencing room. I love it here. I'm really glad I came."

Garrison attended high school in Boaz and actually shadowed a Redstone engineer during the fall of 1998 as a senior before going off to Auburn's engineering school.

"I would definitely recommend it," she said. "It's a great opportunity. There are so many different projects and you can choose what you're interested in. It was a very competitive offer."

Enjoying what she does is just another perk to Garrison, who is helping to design software when she is not in the lab. High ranking visitors are also a source of on the job excitement. "I get to work with tours.

I recently got to meet a general when he came through on a tour. That was really neat," she said.

David Austin, an electrical engineering intern, grew up around the military. His father and uncles had all been involved in one branch or another. "I had hoped for something in the defense industry," Austin said. "That's why I became an electrical engineer." The Pontotoc, Miss. native was attending Ole Miss when a professor approached him about the program. "The incentive package was a very big factor," he said.

Austin keeps busy supporting the M270 launchers and MLRS system. On this day, they were performing weapons simulation testing on a launcher. The allure of working with the latest technology was a big part of what drew Austin to north Alabama. "We have the coolest toys in the entire SED, in my opinion," he said with a smile.

In today's job market, attracting a younger work force has become a goal for many organizations. Software Engineering Directorate has raised the bar on offering competitive starting positions for the recent graduate, while ensuring a more educated employee. "We're happy with it," Craig said. "If needed we would do this again."



Photo by Kelley Lane

CAREER BOOST— David Austin saw incentives as a way to launch his career.



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Photo by Kelley Lane

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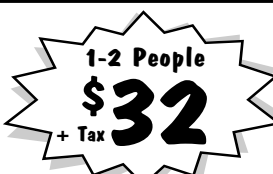
Visitors to the Space and Rocket Center have left flowers around the space shuttle display in the aftermath of the Columbia disaster Feb. 1.



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Valentines

continued from page 1

cards covered in hearts and flags and hand drawn artwork were messages addressed to the soldier.

Nikki Day, Walter Jackson fourth-grader, decorated her card inside and out. On the front her message read: I would like to thank you for all the things you are doing for me and my country." The message continued inside: "It is very cold here. We are expecting snow very soon. I am in the fourth grade and 9 years old. I hope you like this valentine. I would like to say again thank you for fighting for me and my country. I have a 3 year old sister who dose not understand. She definitely did not understand about the twin towers. She also thanks you for fighting for us so it doesn't happen again. Happy Valentine's Day."

Fellow student Hana A. from Mrs. Berry's fifth-grade class wrote: "Thank you so much for standing up for our country. You have a ton of courage. Happy Valentine's Day."

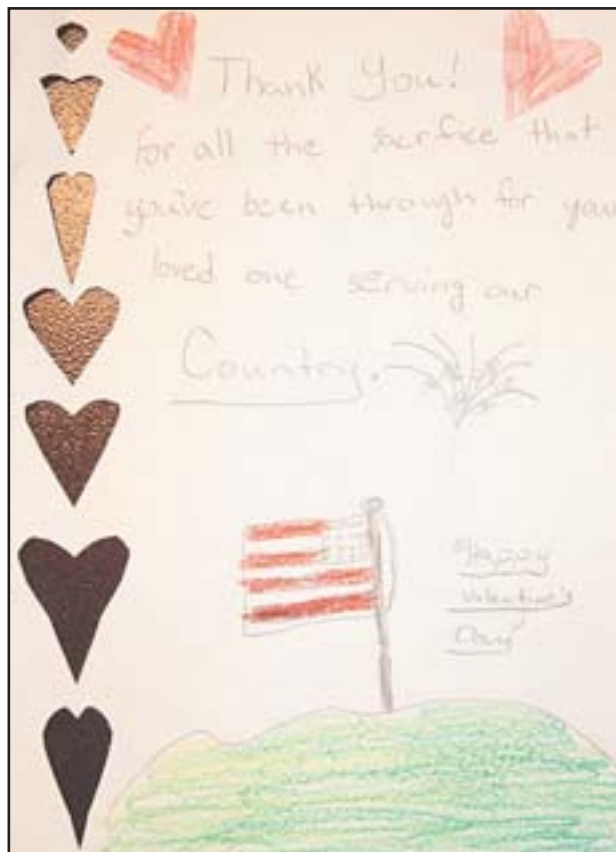
Eduardo Boleago from Austinville Elementary in Decatur wished his soldier good luck in the war and wanted to know, "How loud is a gun?" From the same school, Mitchell wrote: "Good luck saving our country and if you find bin ladden (sic)."

Valentines from at least six schools have poured into the offices at ACS. Owens distributed the first batch to soldiers while conducting a deployment briefing to soldiers last week. Owens tells National Guard and Reserve soldiers and their families about all Army entitlements available as active duty soldiers. She's done 20 such briefings since October 2001, which means 20 units have been activated.

"I've been all over Alabama and Mississippi. I've spent the last seven weekends doing deployment briefings," Owens said. "I've got one Sunday on Jordan Lane."

Owens will take some of the valentines with her to the briefing. The rest she will package up and send to the local units that have already deployed.

"I'll send it to the company commander and they can send them forward," she said, adding that nearly all the valentines have name and return address for the soldiers to write back. "I think a lot of them will. These cards and letters — it just



shows you that these kids are thinking about what's happening and about the soldiers who have deployed. We didn't ask for them. They just arrived here. It's incredible really."

West End fourth-grader Casie McBrayer's message says it all.

"We appreciate everything you have done for us. I would hate to know I didn't spend Valentine's Day with my family but you are doing this for your family and the lives of others. Maybe someday you will come home and you and your friends will be national heroes. I think that will happen because you deserve a lot of loyalty because you are fighting this war against terrorism for us. So thank you and Happy Valentine's Day."

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Rumsfeld calls for change in Defense Department

Outdated rules, regulations stifle flexibility, he says

By JIM GARAMONE
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld asked Congress to enact sweeping changes in the way the department is managed as he presented the defense portion of the president's fiscal 2004 budget request.

Rumsfeld told members of the House Armed Services Committee that to win the global war on terror, the U.S. military must be flexible, light and agile, "so that they can respond quickly to sudden changes in the world."

"The same is true of the men and women of the department," Rumsfeld

continued. "They also need to be flexible and agile, so that we can move money, and shift people, and design and buy new weapons more quickly, and respond to the frequent sudden changes in our security environment."

The department does not have that kind of agility, he said, and that puts the United States at a decided disadvantage when confronting terrorists.

"In an age when terrorists move information at the speed of an e-mail, money at the speed of a wire transfer, and people at the speed of a commercial jetliner, the Defense Department, I regret to say, is bogged down in bureaucratic processes of the industrial age — not the information age," Rumsfeld said. "Some of our difficulties are self-imposed, to be sure. But some are the result of law and regulation. Together, they have created a culture that too often stifles innovation."

The secretary used the fiscal 2004 budget as an example. He said the department started formulating the budget in March 2002 and completed its work in December. The Office of Management and Budget worked on it through this month. Congress will consider the budget and pass it in October or November 2004.

"That means that at any given time during the coming fiscal year that this budget will address, that plan that we developed last year will be ... 14 months to 30 months old while we are trying to implement the product that comes out of the Congress," he said. "And we'll be doing this in a world that is changing monthly before our eyes. At a minimum, we will always be between one and two-and-a-half years out of date."

Rumsfeld had other examples. DoD spends \$42 million an hour, yet the department cannot move more than \$15 million from one account to another without permission from Congress. He said that means any change must go through four to six committees and take months to accomplish.

"Today, we estimate we have some 320,000 uniformed people doing non-military jobs, yet we are calling up reserves to fight the global war on terror," he said.

Rumsfeld said DoD prepares and submits 26,000 pages of justification and more than 800 required reports to Congress each year. He said many of the reports are of marginal value, but they nevertheless take time to prepare.

'We are fighting the first wars of the 21st century with a Defense Department that was fashioned to meet the challenges of the mid-20th century. It has to change.'

—Donald Rumsfeld
secretary of defense

"The point is this: We are fighting the first wars of the 21st century with a Defense Department that was fashioned to meet the challenges of the mid-20th century," he said. "It has to change."

The secretary called on the representatives to duplicate their work that created the Department of Homeland Security.

"I feel we should now address the Department of Defense," he said. "We are already working with a number of you

and your staffs to fashion legislation that we could present to you later this year to try to bring the Defense Department into the 21st century and to transform how it moves money, manages people and buys weapons."

Rumsfeld said the department is looking to establish a National Security Personnel System to give more flexibility in how DoD manages its 700,000 plus civilian personnel. "Today, because that task is difficult, we find frequently we use ... people in uniform for nonmilitary jobs because we can manage them much more readily," he said. "We use contractors rather than civilian employees, again because you can manage a contractor more efficiently."

The secretary also wants to establish more flexible military retirement rules. He said the military trains and invests in officers and NCOs and then forces them out the door in their 40s or early 50s — just as they are most productive. Those who want to serve longer should have the option of doing so, he said.

The secretary said the department can institute some of these changes, but others will need legislation. He said the department would continue to work closely with Congress to move some of these initiatives along.



Courtesy photo

Vigilant dog

Curtis Tucker, right, of South Central Civilian Personnel Operations Center, accepts a commendation certificate on behalf of his guide dog, Gordy, from director David Brooks. On Jan. 14, Gordy detected a burning odor coming from a scanner. His reaction caused his human companions to find the source of the problem, and prevented serious damage and possible injury.

Central Command buildup continues

By JIM GARAMONE
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military buildup in the U.S. Central Command area of operations continues, with more than 100,000 troops now serving in the region, DoD officials said.

The CENTCOM region sprawls from Kazakhstan to Kenya. The troop total includes some 9,000 personnel involved in operations in Afghanistan and thousands of others deployed to countries around that theater of operations, the officials said.

The largest Army unit to deploy to the area is the 3rd Infantry Division out of Forts Stewart and Benning in Georgia. That unit is in Kuwait. Other Army units, most notably the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas, have received deployment orders.

There are 35,000 Marines in the area of operations. The 1st Marine Expeditionary Force has 15,000 Marines in Kuwait. Roughly 7,200 Marines are

aboard Amphibious Task Force East, and 5,000 others are aboard the Amphibious Task Force West. Thousands of sailors man the ships carrying the Marines.

The Navy has deployed the USS Constellation and USS Abraham Lincoln carrier battle groups to the Central Command area of operations. They're in the Arabian Sea area and are part of Central Command's 5th Fleet. Each group has 8,500 to 10,000 sailors aboard. The USS Harry S. Truman carrier battle group is in the Mediterranean Sea as part of 6th Fleet in the U.S. European Command area of operations.

The USS Theodore Roosevelt has finished training in the Caribbean and is transiting in support of the global war on terrorism, Navy officials said.

The Air Force has deployed 17,850 airmen to the region. Of those, 1,725 are Air National Guardsmen and 625 are Air Force Reserve members. Air Force officials would not comment on the types and number of aircraft deployed to the region.



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Perfection puts Redstone bowler in elite league

National Guard recruiter rolls his first 300 game

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

SSgt. Joe Cox felt relaxed but no luckier than usual as he prepared to bowl with his team in the Tuesday night mixed league at Redstone Lanes.

He and his parents and wife form "Cox's Army." Cox bowled a 204 and then a 232 before his third game on lanes 7 and 8.

That's when it happened — perfection. Cox rolled his first 300 game in 33 years of bowling Jan. 28.

"That's the first time we've had one in league play in a long time," Mel Webb, a counter control worker at Redstone Lanes, said.

Tanya Moore, a cook at the lanes, was working that night. "What I remember is him hitting that last strike and the whole dang place going crazy. Clapping and hollering and all that type of stuff," she said.

"I didn't know he was that close (to 300)," Chuck Clisson, a bowler in the league, said. "I did notice it getting quiet down at that end."

Cox, a recruiter for the National Guard, started feeling he had a shot in the sixth frame. In the ninth frame, he told himself that he'd always done well in the 10th frame and to just relax. The strikes kept coming.

"But I mean the 12th frame I was so scared, I was shaking to death," the 39-year-old Redstone resident said. "It was a good solid hit. I wasn't worried about it once I let it go."

After rolling the 12th ball, he turned and noticed for the first time that everyone was watching. A celebration erupted when all the pins fell. Cox has bowled at Redstone Lanes for 13 years. He previously neared 300, including a 297 in practice two weeks beforehand at Pin Palace.

"I was amazed that I did it," he said of the 300 game. "It's equivalent to 12 hole-in-ones in a row to me. As many years as I've been bowling, I'd never seen one actually rolled except on TV. And then to

actually do it, I was shocked. I always thought I was skilled enough, but it takes a mixture of luck and skill. I've always had the skill. I just didn't have the luck mixed in. And I did that night."

After the 12th strike he hugged his mother, Myra, an accountant at Security Assistance Management Directorate; his father, Jerry, a retired Air Force first sergeant; and his wife, Dana, who works for Toyota in Huntsville. He jumped up and down and was congratulated by everyone. His wife took him out to dinner that weekend.

"It means that I can walk into any bowling alley in the world and know that for the most part, I am successful at the sport," Cox said. "That I can bowl with anybody anytime and be competitive."

A fellow bowler, Commissary worker Frank James, helped his game about 12 years ago. "He taught me everything I know about the small adjustments of the game," Cox said.

Cox bowls about three times a week. He averages 207 in the Tuesday night mixed league and 203 in the Wednesday night men's league; and his Wednesday night teammates are John Howard, Norm Myers and Chip Enlow.

He and Dana, an Enterprise native, have four children: Rachelle, 15, Marie Cochran, 13, Stephen, 11, and Scott Cochran, 7.

Born in Spokane, Wash., he moved throughout his father's Air Force career. He attended high school in Missouri and Illinois and was a 5-foot-7 split end for the Grandview (Mo.) High football team. He joined the Army in 1980 in Rapid City, S.D., and served more than 10 years before leaving the service and coming to Huntsville in November 1990. He worked at Redstone Scientific Information Center for five years under contract and joined the National Guard in early 1996. He's in his sixth year of active duty with the National Guard.

He dreams of perhaps someday playing on the senior Pro Bowlers Association tour. But he's more confident of his chances at another 300 game.

"Now that I've done it the first time, the nerves won't be as bad," Cox said. "It may take awhile but I think I can do it."

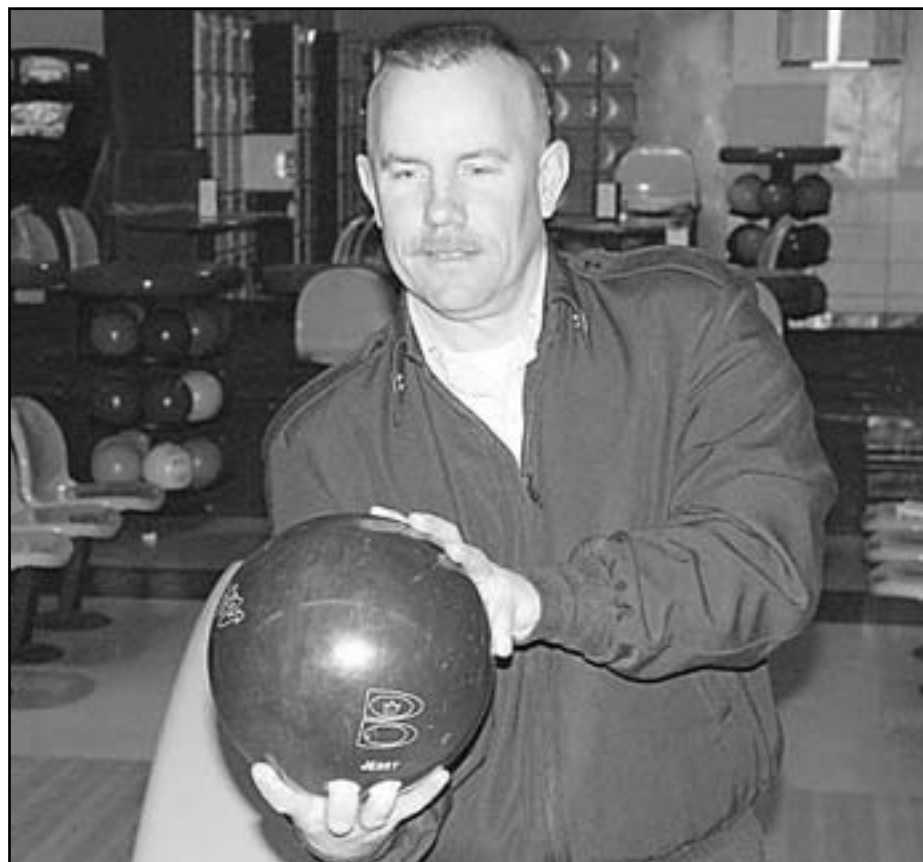


Photo by Skip Vaughn

GOING FOR PINS— SSgt. Joe Cox bowls in two leagues at Redstone Lanes.

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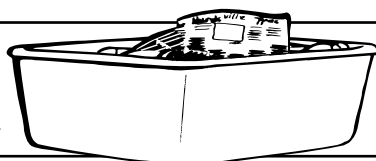
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The Huntsville Times

HHC 59th claims 30th annual Commander's Cup

Trophy awarded for troop sports

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@redstone.army.mil

It represents bragging rights among the troops. It's a hot topic every day at the dining hall.

The Commander's Cup for sports means that and more. And this year, on the cup's 30th anniversary, the trophy belongs to Headquarters & Headquarters Company 59th Ordnance Brigade.

HHC 59th won the year-round competition with 336.2 points followed by Bravo Company with 325.2 and Delta Company with 308.1. The three trophies were presented Feb. 4 at Pagano Gym.

"Everybody who participated, who showed determination and enthusiasm and energy in support of the Army sports program, is a winner," Dan Ahern, director of personnel and community activities, said. "I appreciate you all for doing that."

In the 2001-02 sports year the 59th finished third in softball, fourth in golf, first in basketball and first in flag football.

"I feel that the Commander's Cup should always be maintained at one of the

permanent party units," SFC Jerry McIntyre, 59th player/coach, said. "After a two-year hiatus at Bravo Company, it's finally back where it belongs."

The 59th, with company commander Capt. Monica Hurst, has 62 soldiers at Redstone. McIntyre described "the competitive spirit that we have in a lot of our soldiers, young and old."

"We just like to come out and compete and have fun," he said. "And if winning is a byproduct of having fun, that's just how we do it."

"This cup belongs to the brigade commander, Col. (David) Hafele, CSM (Larry) Taylor, down to the lowest soldier within the unit. It took a team effort of actual player and support cheering us on."

Spec. Keneshia Taplin represents part of that support. She didn't play but she attended most of the games. "We did a good job this year," she said.

Sgt. Patrick Perry played softball, flag football, volleyball and basketball. "It keeps the morale up," the 29-year-old soldier from Lonoke, Ark., said.

"The key to winning this is being consistent in all sports," McIntyre said. "Fielding a team and being consistent in all of them. And we can attribute that to the handful of soldiers that are always participating."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

BRAGGING RIGHTS— From left are the 59th's Sgt. Patrick Perry, SFC Jerry McIntyre and Spec. Keneshia Taplin.

Volleyball teams hold court

Teams 2 and 4 squared off Feb. 5 in the Redstone Arsenal Volleyball League.

Team 4 took two of the three games 25-15, 25-16, 17-21.

In the second match, team 1 beat team 3 25-21, 25-14, 21-15.

"The season is still young yet and the league will gladly accept any individuals or teams that want to play," organizer Felix Milar said. For more information, call him or Paul Banks at 313-6091.

Davis sparks AMCOM team in troop basketball action

AMCOM got its offense rolling last week in troop basketball action.

Derrick Davis scored 21 points and Michael Gola added 15 as AMCOM beat Bravo team-2 56-50 on Feb. 3 at Pagano Gym.

"They both pulled us through on offense," Mary Addison, a reserve guard, said. "And Bryan Phillips was getting boards. Corenthia Jones came in at the last minute with a couple of 3s. The team is finally starting to play together, play as a team."

AMCOM led 26-19 at halftime. Marcus Simmons scored 21 for Bravo-2.

In other games last week, HHC 59th d. Marines 63-45, Headquarters & Alpha d. Alpha 131st 44-31, Charlie d. Bravo-2 56-23, NCO Academy d. Delta 48-38, Marines d. Headquarters & Alpha 59-35, Bravo-1 d. Alpha 131st 54-28, Marines d. Charlie 58-55, HHC59th d. AMCOM 63-49, Bravo-2 d. Alpha 131st by forfeit, Delta d. Bravo-1 64-34 and NCO Acade-

my d. Headquarters & Alpha 60-30.

Here are the standings entering this week: Delta (7-1), HHC 59th (6-1), NCO Academy (6-1), Headquarters & Alpha (4-4), Charlie (4-4), AMCOM (4-4), Marines (4-4), Bravo-1 (3-4), Alpha 131st (1-5) and Bravo-2 (1-6).



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Sports & Recreation

Boating safety classes

Redstone Flotilla 2406 offers boating safety classes in room 215 at building 3305, Stillwell Hall, on Zeus Drive. Classes will be held 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday through March 27, April 10 through May 22, June 12 through July 24, Aug. 14 through Sept. 25 and Oct. 9 through Nov. 20. A \$22 fee covers the cost of the class text and binder. For more information or to register, call Tom Kunhart 885-7096 (work) or 830-6621 (home).

Youth baseball signup

Youth Services will soon begin registering children ages 5-12 for spring baseball, softball and T-ball leagues. Registration is Thursday through March 7. Cost is \$15 per child or \$35 per family per year for Central Registration at building 1500; \$35 per child for baseball, softball or T-ball fee. Leagues are open to children of active duty and retired military personnel, DoD/Army, contractor and NASA. A birth certificate and current physical must be submitted for each child's registration (if not already on file and current). Anyone interested may register at the Challenger in building 1500 from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Practices begin in early April; and league play runs from May through June. Volunteer coaches and assistant coaches are needed. For more information, call 876-3704 or 313-3699.

Women's golf group

The Huntsville Chapter of the Women's Executive Golf Association will hold its annual Tee-Off Event, Feb. 20 at the Officers and Civilians Club. The entire Team Redstone community is invited. The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. and conclude by 8. Rosie Jones, an LPGA golf professional and 21-year veteran of the LPGA tour, is the scheduled guest speaker. For more information, call 852-9184.

Bass anglers

North Alabama Bass Anglers will have a tournament March 1 on Lake Guntersville. Members should be prepared to be in the water 30 minutes before sunrise. The launch ramp is at Seibold. To join call Ed Lawler, treasurer, (256) 998-0278.



Conferences & Meetings

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association will hold its monthly meeting Feb. 20 from 6:30-7:30 in the morning at Redstone Golf Club. For more information, call retired CSM Jean Rose 313-1659.

Air show concession volunteers

The Navy's Blue Angels flight demonstration team is to perform March 29-30 at Huntsville Airport. The concessionaire needs 188 volunteers to staff 16 booths each day of the air show. Booths will require 12, 3, 6 or 20 people. This is an opportunity for clubs and organizations on

the Arsenal to earn extra money for scholarships or other worthwhile projects. A meeting is scheduled for Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. in the Redstone Room at the Challenger Club. At least one representative from each club or organization should attend. Retired Navy Capt. Charles Steckler will discuss details and requirements to staff the various booths and provide an opportunity for representatives to sign up for booths. Steckler can be reached at 882-9524 or e-mail steckgram@aol.com.

Enlisted spouses

The Enlisted Spouses Club will meet Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Challenger Club. All active duty and retired enlisted spouses are invited. For more information, call Crystal Taylor 864-3126.

Alabama State alums

The Alabama State University, Rocket City Alumni Chapter will have its monthly meeting Saturday at 8:30 a.m. at the Piccadilly Cafeteria in the Madison Square Mall.

Education committee

The Garrison Education Meeting is Feb. 19 at noon at the Academy for Science and Foreign Language, 3221 Mastin Lake Road. The meeting will cover issues relating to Redstone Arsenal-affiliated children and their educational needs. For more information, call Pam Berry 955-6309.

Diabetic support

A community diabetic support group meets at 10 a.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Huntsville-Madison County Senior Center. Diabetics and their family members are invited. There is no charge.

Logistics engineers

The International Society of Logistics will have a luncheon Feb. 18 at 11:30 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Scheduled speaker is Maj. Gen. John Urias, program executive officer for air and missile defense and deputy commander for research, development and acquisition at Space and Missile Defense Command. Cost is \$12, \$11 for SOLE members. Make reservations by close of business Thursday by calling Emma Louise Cooper 955-8462, Ruth Gordon 922-0003 (ext. 312) or Deborah Baugh 955-6335.

Officers association

The Military Officer Association of America, formerly the Retired Officer Association, will hold its monthly luncheon meeting Feb. 19 at 11 a.m. at the Officers and Civilians Club. Scheduled speaker is financial adviser Bill Anderson. For more information, call Aniceto Bagley 852-7973.

Waiting spouses

Waiting Spouses is a group of ladies who are geographically separated from their husbands. Its next get-together is Feb. 22 at 6:30 p.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. Free child care will be provided; RSVP. by Feb. 19. For more information, call Kristi Foster or

Tracy Silvia 876-5397.

Parent council

The Parent Advisory Council will meet Feb. 25 at 11 a.m. at the Challenger Activity Community Center, building 1500, in the Redstone Room. Parents with children in the Child Development Center, Youth Services and School Age Services are encouraged to attend. Parents earn PAC participation points for attending. For more information, call Anita Epps 774-6737.

Engineer society

The Huntsville Post, Society of American Engineers, will hold its monthly meeting Feb. 20 at 11:30 a.m. at the Fogcutter Restaurant on University Drive. Randy Knott of MACTEC is to speak on "The Cape Hatteras Lighthouse Relocation." For reservations call Deborah Walker 895-1602.



Miscellaneous

Challenger bingo

The Challenger will hold Valentine's Night Bingo, Friday. Attendees will receive free bingo game, champagne and chocolates. "Come to our fun Valentine's party with a chance to win \$10,000; jackpot game of \$5,000," a prepared release said. "We also offer a progressive jackpot." Challenger bingo, at building 1500

on Weeden Mountain Road, is open to the entire Redstone community age 19-plus. Active and retired military, DoD/Army civilians and Redstone/NASA contractors are welcome. For more information, call 830-0750.

Scholarship program

The American Society of Military Comp-trollers announces its annual scholarship program for ASMC members and their immediate families. This scholarship is open to high school seniors, undergraduates and those working on graduate programs. The application can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.asmonline.org/national/nationalawards.shtml> or you may call Jan Howard 313-3447 or Debbie O'Neal 842-7501. Application deadline is Feb. 28. These may be mailed to Howard at PEO, Air and Missile Defense, Attn.: SFAE-AMD-BD-SF, P.O. Box 1500, Huntsville, Ala., 35807-3801 or taken to O'Neal, building 5300, third floor, Sparkman Center.

Welfare contributions

Every year the Officer and Civilian Women's Club makes contributions to a variety of organizations. This year a "Welfare Request Form" is being used to standardize the process by collecting the same information from each requesting organization. Welfare Request Forms are available at Army Community Service

See Announcements on page 16

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(building 3338), by mail (OCWC, Attn: Welfare Chairman, P.O. Box 8113, Redstone Arsenal, Ala., 35808), and via e-mail from adlunn@knology.net or dbusk@aol.com. All requests must conform to the OCWC Welfare Request Form. The request deadline is Feb. 28. For more information, call Angie Lunn 837-3310 or Dede Busk 430-1083.

National Guard recruiting

The Alabama Army National Guard is seeking motivated individuals for part-time employment. "Start or continue your military career with the best part-time job in America," a prepared release said. If you know someone who needs college money, job training, retirement or just wants to serve their country, call SSgt. Joe Cox 881-2889 or 707-8467 or call Sgt. Mike Alexander 350-1610.

Airborne recruits

The Airborne Recruiting Team will visit Redstone Arsenal from Feb. 18-21. Information on when and where will be provided later. In the Ordnance field, PERSCOM is particularly interested in enlisted personnel in the following specialties: 27E, 35H, 35Y and 55B. For more information call SFC Tracy of Fort Knox, Ky., at DSN 536-0427.

Reading to children

Become a Redstone community volunteer reader and read to children at the Child

Development Center each Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. Call Shellie or Evelyn 876-7952 to volunteer or for more information.

Bible study

The Bicentennial Chapel invites all women with access to the Arsenal to participate in a Lunch Time Bible Study every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Bring your own lunch and join them in the assembly room. To reserve your spot, e-mail the following: new-tiques@earthlink.net.

Acquisition experience

The Army Acquisition Support Center sponsors the Acquisition Career Experience program at various Army locations. The program's intent is to recruit high-potential undergraduate sophomores or juniors with a discipline of study that underpins one of the Army's acquisition career fields of engineering, contracting, information technology, business or logistics. For more information, call Sharon Clodfelter 955-1632 or Maxine Maples 955-2764 or access the following electronic-mail address: http://asc.rdaisa.army.mil/career_management/Acepage/aboutace.htm.

Business scholarships

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter, International Association of Administrative Professionals will present two \$1,000 scholarship awards to a high school and college student majoring in a business field. Merit awards may apply toward tuition, books

and fees for undergraduate or graduate level studies. Deadline for applications is April 30. For more information or a scholarship application, call Patricia Motes 876-9317.

Spring break registration

Child and Youth Services will accept applications to the Spring Break and Summer Camps at the School Age Services (grades K-5) and Youth Services (grades 6-12) programs from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday through March 14. Spring Break Camps are March 17-28. Application and registration information packets may be picked up at central registration in the Challenger Activity Center, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road. Registration costs \$15 and a current immunization record must accompany registration. Cost is based on family income per DoD regulations. This program is open to children of all military and military retirees, DoD/Army civilians, NASA, and DoD/Redstone contractors. Call 876-3704 or 955-6309 for details.

Redstone missile reunion

Aug. 18 will mark the 50th anniversary of the launching of the first Redstone missile at Cape Canaveral. Individuals who were involved in the design, testing or launch of this missile are invited with their families to a reunion dinner on or about Aug. 18 at the Beville Center in Huntsville. For more information, call Bill Pittman 876-1778.

Charitable organizations

The Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign is accepting applications from federated groups, charitable organizations or a combination thereof, for participation in the 2003 fund-raising campaign. In accordance with Title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 950, an organization must have 501-c-3 status, proof of human health and welfare services, an annual audit/IRS 990 Form, and a board of directors. The open period for acceptance of application packages is March 17 to April 7. Contributions to this fund-raising campaign are received from federal employees, active military personnel, retired federal employees, and governmental contractor personnel from Madison, Morgan, Marshall, Limestone, Cullman and Lawrence counties as well as Lincoln County, Tenn. For more information or to obtain an application call Melinda Seigler, CFC director for United Way of Madison County, at 536-0745, ext. 108 or the CFC office 876-9143. Local applications may also be downloaded from www.cfc.gov/cfc or picked up at the United Way of Madison County, 701 Andrew Jackson Way, Huntsville. E-mail inquiries may be made to: Melinda.Seigler@uwhsv.org.

Veterinary special

"Give your pet a Valentine's Day gift that will last all year," the Veterinary Treatment Facility says in a prepared release. Throughout February, the clinic will offer heartworm tests for \$10 and all heartworm preventive for 15 percent off. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. February clinic days for

vaccines and sick call are Feb. 13, 20, 26 and 27 by appointment only, call 876-2441. Special evening clinic will be Feb. 25 from 4-6 p.m. for walk-ins, vaccines only.

Army dependent scholarships

Applications for the Army Emergency Relief Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Fund for Dependent Children of Army Soldiers are being accepted through March 3. Dependent children, stepchildren or legally adopted children of soldiers on active duty, retired, or deceased while on active duty or after retirement are eligible. Applications may be printed from the AER web site, www.aerhq.org. Completed applications with supporting documents must be mailed to headquarters AER and postmarked not later than March 3. For more information call Kristi Foster of Army Community Service 876-5397.

Reserve recruiting

The 4/100th Battalion (CM) in the 100th Division (Institutional Training), which teaches the specialty 54B, is looking for Reserve officers and soldiers. The headquarters needs a soldier who has the specialty 75H40 to be the personnel action center NCO-in-charge. The headquarters also needs a branch immaterial lieutenant or captain to be a part of the staff or to be an executive officer at the detachment at Anniston. To apply, send an e-mail to Chandra.Roberts@us.army.mil or call (256) 535- 6207/6227.

Butler High reunion

Class of 1983 at Butler High School will have its 20-year reunion Aug. 29-30. Interested classmates should call Tammy 721-2246 or Kelly 829-1427.

Health center hours

Fox Army Health Center announces holiday hours for Presidents Day. The Primary Care Extended Hours Clinic will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, Feb. 14-17, for scheduled appointments. All other clinics will be closed. The pharmacy will be open regular hours, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14 and closed on Monday, Feb. 17. Advice Nurses are available 24 hours a day at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531 to provide care advice and schedule urgent care appointments. Access to the building may be gained through the pharmacy entrance on the south side.

Resume workshop

A resume workshop is 10 a.m. Thursday at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. To register call 876-0446.

Valentine's dance

The Alabama Hispanic Association will hold a Valentine's dance Friday from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Senior Center auditorium, 2200 Drake Ave. Admission is \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Tickets are available at La Tiendita Latina on Jordan Lane next to KFC.

See Announcements on page 17

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THE FOLLOWING OPM/OPU ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB AT WWW.USAJOBSPPM.GOV

[illegible]

WHO CAN APPLY CODE DEFINITIONS (Note: Only U.S. citizens are eligible to apply for Army positions)

- A. Army personnel competitive service employees and certain Army assigned service employees covered by Section 5042
B. All Army personnel competitive service employees and certain Army assigned service employees (SF 50 documenting service required)
C. Compensatory, Overpaid Veterans receiving 30% or more compensation from a military service or the VA (SF 115 and other documentation required)
D. All Department of Defense competitive service employees and certain DOD assigned service employees (SF 50 documenting service required)
E. Civilian Under 12/71 employees (civilian overseas foreign military employees who meet eligibility requirements)
F. All Federal Employees
G. Severely handicapped persons (documentation from State Vocational Rehabilitation Services required)
H. Individualized Career Transition Act (ICTA) (Not DOD Federal employees who have been displaced by FSI)
I. Reemployment eligible former competitive service Federal employees who meet eligibility requirements
J. Transfer eligibles from Army Federal competitive service employees (SF 50 documenting service required)
K. Certain veterans and prior military members who meet the eligibility criteria under 38 USC 4313 (SF 714a in place of SF 50)
L. All Veterans

NOTE: The Nonappropriated Fund (NAF) Personnel Office accepts applications for various types of positions, i.e., Cashier, Food Service, Customer Attender. A complete listing of all available positions can be viewed on the web at www.redstonemarv.com, or you may telephone 874-3772.

Restaurant Review

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Chicken Alfredo - Breaded breast of chicken, served fried with fettucine sautéed in Alfredo sauce.....**8.59**

Grilled Fish Copeland - Fish fillet, char-grilled. Topped with your choice: Herb Garlic Butter, Lacombe sauce, or Crawfish Hollandaise.....**7.99**

Shrimp Etouffée - A classic Louisiana dish. Gulf shrimp in a dark roux-based sauce seasoned with garlic, green onions, and spices, ladled over white rice. Try it with crawfish!.....**8.29**

Shrimp And Fresh Fish Creole Traditional New Orleans sauce loaded with shrimp and fresh fish chunks, with steamed rice on the side. Served with steamed vegetables (Fresh Gulf fish may be substituted seasonally).....**8.29**

Burgundy Beef - Tender beef tips in a burgundy-mushroom sauce. Served over your choice of rice or pasta.....**7.59**

Andouille Sausage, Red Beans And Rice - A New Orleans tradition, from the best recipe of its kind.....**7.49**

Blackened Chicken - Skillet-blackened chicken breast, Red Hot potatoes and sautéed red, yellow and green peppers.....**8.59**

Catfish Acadiana® - Golden fried, bayou catfish with our creamy shrimp butter sauce. Served with steamed vegetables and Red Hot potatoes.....**7.99**

Ricochet Catfish® - Lightly fried catfish, topped with pecans, sesame, and our Creole meunière sauce. Served with steamed vegetables and Red Hot potatoes.....**7.99**

Grilled Chicken And Pasta - Grilled chicken breast served with a light lemon sauce over angel hair pasta and steamed vegetables.....**10.99**

Chicken And Sausage Pasta Jambalaya - Seasoned chicken breast pieces sautéed in a brown Creole sauce with smoked sausage, bell peppers, onions, mushrooms, green onions and seasonings over Rotini pasta.....**8.99**

New Orleans Grilled Fish - A 5 oz. fish fillet, grilled and served with angel hair pasta and steamed vegetables. Perfect for watching those calories.....**10.99**

Sirloin - 12 oz. prime top sirloin steak served sizzlin'.....**15.99**

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